**Improvement in the NSS**

4656. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 342 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2000 and state what steps Government have taken to improve the existing schemes of National Savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): The Small Savings Schemes are reviewed from time to time and the major changes initiated in the recent past are as under:

(i) The ceilings of deposits in respect of Post Office Monthly . Income Account and Post Office Savings Account schemes have been enhanced.

(ii) It has been decided to allow Farmers' Cooperatives, Labour Cooperatives and Self Help Groups to invest in National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) and Kisan Vikas Patra schemes.

(iii) The procedure of payment of commission to Standardised Agency System (SAS), Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojna (MPKBY) Agents and Pay Roll Savings Group Leaders has been simplified by paying them the amount of commission 'due to them for the deposits mobilised through them' at source at the time of deposit of their collections itself *w.e.f.* 1.5.2000

(iv) Amendments in the Post Office Savings Bank General Rules, 1981, Kisan Vikas Patra Rules, 1988 and National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) Rules, 1989 have been effected to enhance the powers of various postal authorities for expeditious settlement of the deceased claims cases.